

**October 26, 2021**

## **Health Advisory: Enhanced Infectious Disease Surveillance During 2021 World Series**

### **Background:**

Atlanta, Georgia will host the 2021 World Series games at Truist Park on Friday October 29, 2021 through Sunday October 31, 2021. There will be an influx of hundreds of thousands of people in the Atlanta area over the three game days.

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is working to support activities surrounding this event to ensure that visitors and Georgia residents have a safe and healthy experience. We would like to highlight some potential public health issues that may arise:

Viral respiratory illnesses (e.g., flu, COVID-19 infections) are common this time of year. Due to the large number of people congregating for the World Series, we expect to see an increase in these illnesses, as well as the potential for other infectious diseases. In addition, vigilance is needed to detect severe illnesses or clusters (two or more people with similar illness or exposures) of illness.

### **Action Steps for Healthcare Providers:**

- Maintain a heightened awareness from October 29, 2021 through November 14, 2021.
- Ask patients who present with signs or symptoms of possible infectious illnesses about attendance at World Series related events and the time of symptom onset.
- If your facility notices an increase in patients presenting with similar symptoms, report these immediately 24/7 to **1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584)**. This may represent a disease outbreak, or rarely, even bioterrorism.
- Think about the possibility of bioterrorism when evaluating a patient with an unusual presentation of a possible infectious or toxin-mediated syndrome (e.g., widened mediastinum, vesicular rash starting on face or extremities, descending bilateral paralysis, unexplained critical illness in an otherwise healthy person) and report any such cases immediately 24/7 to **1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584)**.
- Continue to conduct routine notifiable disease surveillance and reporting.